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MUNICIPAL FRANCHISES.—A Description of the Terms and Conditions upon which Private Corporations enjoy Special Privileges in the Streets of American Cities. By Delos F. Wilcox, Ph.D., Chief of the Bureau of Franchises of the Public Service Commission for the First District of New York and author of "The American City" and other works. In Two Volumes. Volume One—Introductory—Pipe and Wire Franchises. Rochester, N. Y.: The Gervaise Press, 1910; Distributing Sales Agents, Engineering News Book Department, New York, pp. xix, 710.

This is a most timely work. In many cities of the United States very valuable rights, amounting to monopolies, have been granted in the streets without adequate compensation. This donation of what is in reality public property has often been the result simply of lack of foresight, often it has been the result of bribery. To the indifference of the people in general concerning their own real welfare must be attributed to a very great extent the unfortunate condition of franchise matters in most of our cities. The author of this work states his purpose to be "to simplify, as far as possible, fundamental conceptions as to the nature and purpose of franchise grants; to state as clearly as possible the necessary conditions to be imposed in connection with various classes of franchises; to describe the best types of franchises actually in force in different cities of the country;" and to discuss principles of taxation, rate regulation, public service commissions, and municipal ownership.

The volume just issued contains a preliminary discussion of underlying principles and chapters illustrative of electric light, telephone, telegraph, water, sewer, heating, pipe-line, gas and other similar franchises, while in volume two will be discussed the various classes of transportation franchises and questions of taxation and regulation. The author has been at great pains to collect franchises from a great number of cities and if he had done nothing more than this the book would be well worth while; but he has pointed out the good and bad features—sometimes not easily distinguishable—of actual grants, and the result is a work that must prove to be of great value to public officials, franchise seekers, or private citizens who desire to learn more of the problems involved in this most interesting and important subject.

SHIPPERS AND CARRIERS OF INTERSTATE FREIGHT.—By Edgar Watkins of the Atlanta (Ga.) Bar. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co., 1909, pp. 578.

This work is confined mainly to a statement of the law governing the relations of and transactions between shippers and carriers of interstate freight, as determined by Congressional Statutes, the decisions of the Federal Courts (some state decisions are also referred to) and the rulings and opinions of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The larger constitutional questions arising under the "Commerce Clause" are but incidentally referred to, or most briefly discussed. The book thus purports to cover a field, hitherto but little occupied, but one of great importance to the classes indi-